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Make the CIA Accountable

FOR SOME TIME the need has existed to make the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency more accountable to the Congress than has been the case over recent years.

No one argues that the United States does not require some type of intelligence gathering organization. That fact was recognized from the earliest days of our Republic. President Polk, for example, had a showdown with Congress in 1846 about accounting for the funds he used "to employ individuals for the purposes of obtaining information." In the Civil War, the North hired the Pinkerton Agency to expand its intelligence services.

But the CIA today seems to have gone far beyond its original purpose as outlined when it was created in 1947 as a result of the experience of Pearl Harbor. President Truman explained:

"... if there had been something like coordination of information in the government, it would have been more difficult, if not impossible, for the Japanese to succeed in the sneak attack ... In those days, the military did not know everything the State Department knew, and the diplomats did not have access to all the Army and Navy knew. The Army and Navy, in fact, had only a very informal arrangement to keep each other informed as to their plans."

There is a feeling now that the CIA is an invisible government — a law unto itself, engaged in provocative covert activities repugnant to a democratic society and subject to no controls. There probably is no isolated part of the world today where CIA agents aren't poking around in another nation's business.

Some of the CIA's activities appear to approach the ridiculous stage at times, such as an illustration recently cited in an address by the agency's own director, Richard Helms. He told how it was vital to the United States to know how deep is the water alongside the docks in Djibouti. Why? Well, Mr. Helms said that if France should one day grant independence to French Somaliland — now formally the Territory of the Afars and Issas — the area would almost certainly be a source of contention between Ethiopia, which looks to the United States for support, and Somalia, which is highly dependent

on the Soviet Union. What ships could be used to land a UN peace-keeping force — or unload relief shipment, according to Mr. Helms, suddenly would become important to the United States. The illustration cited here would lead one to believe the CIA goes looking for trouble.

Of more immediate concern is what the CIA is doing in Laos and Cambodia today. There have been disclosures about how the agency has been promoting and financing a secret war in Laos and training Cambodian troops in Laos in order to circumvent a 1970 congressional amendment cutting off funds for U.S. ground troops or advisers in Cambodia. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives declined recently to approve a resolution requiring the Administration to tell Congress what the military and the CIA are doing in Laos.

There are several proposals now before the Senate, all related to the future operations of the CIA, which we believe deserve the support of that body. Senator John Sherman Cooper has proposed that the CIA be required to make regular and special reports to responsible Senate and House committees; Senator George McGovern would require CIA expenditures and appropriations to appear as a single line item in the budget rather than being hidden in other agency budgets. And Senator Clifford Case would limit the CIA's use of funds and military equipment for fielding foreign troops in Laos or elsewhere without specific approval by Congress.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

24 SEP 1972

Jack Anderson

Soviets, Syrians Fight Peace Bid

INTELLIGENCE reports claim that the Soviet Union's conspiring with Syria's President Hafez Assad to block Egypt's President Anwar Sadat from achieving a Middle East peace settlement.

By expelling Soviet forces from Egypt, Sadat had maneuvered into position to get some concessions from Israel. Indeed, there were signals from Tel Aviv that Israel would be generous about returning captured territory.

The Israelis made it clear, however, that they intended to keep the strategic Golan Heights which they seized from Syria. The Syrians, therefore, would have nothing to gain from a peace settlement.

Egypt and Syria are partners, with Libya, in an Arab confederation. But the Central Intelligence Agency, in secret reports from Damascus, has quoted President Assad as making derogatory remarks about the Egyptians.

Not long after the expulsion of the Soviets from Egypt, the Kremlin sent an urgent, hand-carried message to Assad. The message, according to the CIA, warned that Syria couldn't afford to follow Egypt's example and strip the country of Soviet protection. This would leave Syria vulnerable to an Israeli attack, the message reportedly declared.

Not only did Assad heed the message and keep his Soviet advisers, but he agreed to bring more Soviet military equipment and technicians into the country.

The intelligence reports suggest that the Kremlin seeks to block an Egyptian-Israeli accord—because it could only be arranged by U.S. mediation. This would increase American influence in the area and leave the Soviets out in the cold.

THE SOVIET overtures to Syria, incidentally, have also has a side effect upon Syrian-American relations. Previously, the Syrians had sought to improve their relations with the United States.

An intelligence report tells, for example, how the Syrians in July, 1969, communicated with U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (BNDD) agents in Beirut through an Italian diplomat that they would agree to a resumption of cooperation with the United States on narcotics matters.

Subsequently, according to the classified document, "two visits to Damascus by BNDD agents were conducted cordially and an exchange of information was initiated."

American diplomats from Lebanon and Jordan were also allowed to travel in Syria. But suddenly, on Sept. 9, Maj. Richard Barrett, an assistant U.S. military attaché in Jordan, was arrested as he was driving through the Syrian countryside.

And David McClintoch, chief of the political section at the U.S. embassy in Jordan, was manhandled by Syrian border guards when he tried to cross the border. He was turned back and had to be driven out of Syria in an Italian embassy car.

Castro's Denial

WE RECENTLY quoted Cuba's Prime Minister Fidel Castro as saying that Chile's President Salvador Allende was "physically spent" and that other Chilean leaders "live too well."

This has brought a roaring denial from Castro, whose private opinions of Allende weren't intended for outside ears. The two leaders, after all, are supposed to be Marxist comrades.

We copied Castro's remarks verbatim from a secret intelligence cable, which gave a detailed account of his meeting with pro-Castro leaders in Chile last winter.

"During the morning of 3 December 1971," began the cable, "Fidel Castro and Armando Hart, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, met with a very few nationals

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who are strong sympathizers of the Cuban revolution in the residence of the Cuban ambassador in Santiago."

As we reported earlier, "Castro said he is worried about Allende because the latter is physically spent. Castro also observed that U.P. [Allende's popular unity government] leaders live too well and are not under sufficient tension to take the offensive."

Here are some additional quotes which we didn't include in our original story:

"Castro commented that there is an ideological weakness within the U.P. coalition. The U.P., he said, does not have a good grasp of the problems which are involved in a revolutionary process."

"Castro stated that the Communist Party of Chile (PCCH), which he called the spinal column of the Popular Unity government, was 'too conservative and said that it must become more radical and move to assume the role of the vanguard of the U.P.'"

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Sen. Nelson Probes Cold Remedies

By Jack Anderson

Coded Messages

At the height of the Olympic drama, when the Black September terrorists were moving their Israeli hostages

to the Munich airport for the unexpected shoot-out, guerrilla radio transmitters in Syria broadcast a number of coded messages.

"From Samir to the eagle," began a typical message. "We await your gift. The sky is clear and the job well done."

There is other evidence that the terrorists may have received orders from a clandestine headquarters in Syria. However, the Syrian authorities, while paying lip service to the Palestinian cause, have kept tight control over guerrilla operations within their borders.

No Guarantee

The Central Intelligence Agency has reported from Damascus that the Syrian authorities reached an agreement with Yasir Arafat, leader of the largest Palestinian guerrilla organization, al Fatah, "to rein in the extremist organizations and not allow them either to cause any further troubles inside Syria or to cause trouble with Jordan."

The CIA, quoting the private remarks of Syrian Army Chief of Staff Mustafa Talas, added: "He could not guarantee 100 per cent that there would be no further provocations by the fedayeen against Jordan, as neither (Syria) nor Fatah had full control over the extremist elements in the radical fedayeen organizations, and an 'accident' spon-

sored by one of these organizations was always a possibility."

"He added, however, that Syria and Fatah were fully agreed on a policy of no further provocations against Jordan and that Arafat had promised to force the radical organizations in Syria into line."

It may be significant that the emphasis was on avoiding trouble with Syria's Arab neighbor Jordan, not on preventing provocative acts against Israel.

Talas was quoted by the CIA as saying: "We have had enough of Arabs shedding Arab blood. The enemy is Israel, and when the time for battle comes, then they can fight as much as they like against the Israelis."

The Syrian army chief recalled the military showdown between Jordan and the Palestinian guerrillas in September 1970, which spawned the Black September movement. Jordan smashed the guerrillas and drove back Syrian tanks that had been sent to help the guerrillas.

"We fought the Jordanians in September, 1970," Talas is quoted by the CIA. "We lost some tanks and men; they lost some tanks and men; nobody won. And for what purpose? We were taken in by the fedayeen in 1970, but we are absolutely determined we will not allow such a thing to happen again."

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Arabs Disagree on War Renewal

By Jack Anderson

Arab leaders disagree, in private, whether to renew hostilities against Israel.

Their most secret conversations, picked up by the Central Intelligence Agency, reveal that Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad holds Egypt's President Anwar Sadat in contempt for threatening an offensive he isn't likely to start.

Even if Egypt should attack Israel, Asad has told associates, "I would not expect too much from the Egyptians." He added fiercely that the Egyptians "will never again pull us into a war and leave us in the lurch."

Next time, he said, the Syrians will be ready. "When the blow comes," he said, "whether Egypt or Israel starts it first, we will seize the opportunity and fight."

The secret intelligence report, telling of Asad's conversation, emphasized that he used the Arabic word "i am m a," which means "when," not "if."

His army chief, Gen. Mustafa Talas, is also quoted in the secret cable as telling his military colleagues tersely: "There is no other choice. We must fight and we will fight."

He acknowledged that "all the Arabs combined are weaker than Israel." But he vowed the Syrians, at least, would fight anyway "if not to gain a victory, at least to keep the war case hot between us and Israel."

As he put it: "If the Arabs had continued to fight Israel after their successive defeats in 1948, 1956 and 1967, rather than turning their backs in defeat, many world leaders would have changed their policies" toward the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Military Moves

Significantly, Syrian troops and armor have been spotted moving "through Damascus heading south," and the Syrians are reported to be "seriously preparing for new hostilities with Israel."

The Egyptians, meanwhile, have been shouting the loudest about resuming the war. But in private, Gen. Mahmud Tuhami, the Egyptian-army's operations chief has told intimates that "any major attempt at crossing the Suez Canal is bound to fail."

Declares a secret cable: "Tuhami said that President Anwar Sadat, when threatening Israel with an all-out war, was bluffing and... informed the army of this."

Tuhami suggested that the army might "carry out small-scale commando attacks" but that these raids "would be carefully controlled so as not to cause over-reaction from the Israelis."

The Egyptian high command, he said, was "very concerned that Israel would take advantage of Sadat's threats to carry out a preemptive strike which would destroy

the Egyptian army and air force."

The U.S. has renewed its efforts, meanwhile to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute at the truce table rather than the battlefield. American diplomats have spread the word, according to a secret report, that "we could not be complacent about future Egyptian military moves if no political progress is achieved."

Footnote: The Syrians belittle the Egyptians in private but fight with the Jordanians in the open. Yet an intelligence cable quotes President Asad as commenting wryly "that perhaps the Syrian army would find itself alongside the Jordan Arab army as the only two armies which would fight Israel fiercely."

Washington Whirl

Ulterior Welcome—Those Welcome Wagons, laden with bounties for new arrivals in neighborhoods across the nation, are under investigation. The Federal Trade Commission has evidence the smiling hostesses, in some cases, have been doubling as private eyes for the business firms whose free gifts they pass out. Some hostesses allegedly have been reporting back the age and make of cars, the condition of carpeting and the financial affairs of the families they visit. Chairman Miles Kirkpatrick has written Rep. Ogden Reid (R-N.Y.) that the FTC is looking "into the various practices of Welcome Wagon, Inc." The company has denied that occa-

sional snooping by its cheery young ladies is company policy.

Top Secret Jokes—When the National Security Agency is not clacking out classified messages in code over its closely-guarded teletype machines, the electronic farce tends to get a little gamy. During a recent slack period, dignified security officials were astounded to see their teletypes rattling out more than 200 words of the vulgar old joke that begins, "Once upon a time there lived a man who had a mad passion for beans..." The officials discovered that clerks had been telling each other dirty jokes on the secret circuit when it was no longer being used for transmitting cryptographic intelligence reports.

Strange Economics—The purpose of President Nixon's economic program is to keep costs down. Yet the General Accounting Office recently used the new economic regulations to keep prices up. The National Graphics Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, was low bidder on some government binding and printing contracts. But the company, because of an oversight, had failed to sign a pledge certifying it was in line with the President's economic orders. Its low bid should have spoken for itself. But instead of giving National Graphics a chance to correct its oversight, the GAO gave the contract to the second low bidder at a loss to the taxpayers of \$4,500.

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